



May 9, 2000

U.S. Utilities are Meeting the Million Solar Roof Challenge

Source: PRNewswire

PRESS RELEASE

Publication date: 2000-05-09

WASHINGTON, May 9 /PRNewswire/ -- Thirteen U.S. electric service providers have been commended for their quick response to the Utility PhotoVoltaic Group's membership challenge to lead by example in the national effort to expand the use of solar power.

The UPVG issued the Million Solar Roof Challenge in August 1999. The challenge urged UPVG members to:

1. Install PV on their own facilities to send a message to customers that PV is a safe and reliable energy option;
 2. Develop customer education packages for PV to increase awareness of renewable energy technologies;
 3. Adopt the IEEE 929 interconnection standards that were promulgated by IEEE last February; and
 4. Register all MSR systems on the national registry.
- In order to achieve one million solar roofs, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) should be informed of all PV systems that have been installed since 26 June 1997.

The following UPVG members met the entire Member Challenge:

-- SRP, Phoenix, Arizona;

-- Western Area Power Administration, Loveland,

Colorado;

- Altair Energy, Golden, Colorado;

- Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Sacramento, California;

- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, Los Angeles, California;

- Palo Alto Electric Utility, Palo Alto, California;

- New York Power Authority, New York, New York;

- Tucson Electric Power, Tucson, Arizona;

- Commonwealth Edison, Chicago, Illinois;

- Okanogan County Electric Cooperative, Winthrop, Washington; and

- Arizona Public Service, Phoenix, Arizona.

Other members which were honored for meeting at least one of the challenges were:

- Sun Power Electric, Westborough, Massachusetts (for interconnection);

- Public Service Company of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico (for MSR Registry); and

- Planergy, Austin, Texas (for interconnection).

The UPVG will continue its yearlong effort to get a majority of its members to meet the challenge. All UPVG members which meet the challenge by 30 September 2000 will be honored at a recognition ceremony at UPVG's Photovoltaic Experience (UPEX) conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on 3 October 2000.

The goal of the UPVG Million Solar Roof Challenge is to support the U.S. government's Million Solar Roofs Initiative by inspiring utilities to take a proactive role in promoting PV as a mainstream energy source.

"It has long been UPVG's contention that electric service providers play a critical role in overcoming market barriers," says Jeff Serfass, UPVG General Manager. "By responding to the Million Solar Roof Challenge and implementing change in such a speedy fashion, these members have gone far in breaking down the barriers to a solar-powered future."

Peter Dreyfuss, the DOE's National Million Solar Roofs Coordinator agrees, "I commend these utilities which are taking actions to support the Million Solar Roofs Initiative and to promote the use of solar energy technologies in their service territories. We believe that strong partnerships with energy service providers are important for the success of the Initiative and the development of sustainable markets for solar energy."

Members which complete the challenge gain both the respect of their peers and a competitive edge in the rapidly changing electricity market. In the words of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, "Consumers want affordable clean-energy options that will help them save money and, at the same time, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new high tech, high wage American jobs. Renewables, such as solar energy, are power sources that are ready now and have great promise for the future."

The UPVG is a nonprofit association of 93 electric service provider members and 55 associate members working together to increase the use of PV by electric service providers and their customers. The UPVG manages the TEAM-UP PV commercialization program with cost-share funding from the DOE. SOURCE Utility PhotoVoltaic Group

Publication date: 2000-05-09
© 2000, YellowBrix, Inc.